

# FEDERAL XII CORPS BRIEFING

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## Strategic Overview:

It is late June 1863. Pleasanton's cavalry caught JEB Stuart at Brandy Station, confirming our suspicions that Lee might be shifting west into the Shenandoah. It has since become clear that the rebels are rapidly marching north in a similar maneuver to their ill-fated Antietam campaign of last September. Alarm is now being raised across western Maryland and even as far north as Pennsylvania. Our army concentrated at Manassas Junction last week and is presently moving toward Frederick to counter any possible rebel moves. Lee's ultimate objective is not clear at this time.

## Order of Battle:

The Army of the Potomac currently fields 95,000 men, and you are responsible for maneuvering two infantry divisions—Williams and Geary. You are a junior corps commander in the army and yours is the smallest corps.

Williams' Division	Geary's Division
<del>McDougall</del> +1	Candy +1
Cosgrove +0	Kane -3
Muhlenberg (art.) +0	Green +0

# Morning Field Report

Turn 1, Late June 1863

General Slocum,

We have just received word this morning that General Hooker resigned his command, effective immediately, and the president has named General Meade to replace him. Your men are camped just south of Frederick, Maryland. No enemy activity has been reported. Shall we establish communication with our new army commander and seek further instructions?

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Slocum

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 10 )

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Slocum, – I have this day taken command of the Army of the Potomac. It seems certain that elements of Genl Lee's forces are in Pennsylvania. You will proceed as escort with the Army HQ and me to Liberty. Identify your starting location and destination in communications with HQ as well as ETA. Meade at Frederick, moving to Liberty

# Morning Field Report

Turn 2, Late June 1863

General Slocum,

Our divisions remain camped just south of Frederick, awaiting orders from Meade. General Sedgwick has advanced from the south to fall in line behind us, while the rest of the army is advancing north. We lost contact with the III Corps as it crossed beyond the Blue Ridge, while Sykes and V Corps are positioned on the east side of the mountain passes.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Slocum

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 10 )

From: Meade's Army HQ

Proceed to Middleburg with all due haste. There are reports of CSA activity around Carlisle and Harrisburg. Aggressively scout your line of march. Meade at Liberty, moving to Middleburg.

To: Genl Slocum

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 5 )

From: Sickles' III Corps HQ

Holding near the Sharpesburg. Found General Hood to the north and various CSA units to the north and west. Will hold as long as possible retreating back towards Harper's Ferry

Gen. D Sickles

To: Genl Slocum

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 10 )

From: Sykes' V Corps HQ

Holding near Middletown. III Corps is engaged near Boonsboro.

# Morning Field Report

Turn 3, Early July 1863

General Slocum,

Williams and Geary are en route to Liberty as ordered—our movement was well aided by logistical attention from Meade's headquarters. We have heard no reports of Confederate movements in this area, aside from the constant stream of newspapers confirming the loss of Harrisburg! This is a black day for the Union.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Slocum

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = n/a )

From: Meade's Army HQ

Sir,

1. I have no message beyond the first from Sickles.. please advise on any information you have.
2. I wish your Corps to move in conjunction with HQ towards Taneytown and Littleton, to act as reserve for the army.
3. Reynolds and Howard are at Gettysburg / Fairfield, Hancock is at Taneytown moving toward Hanover. The cavalry is ranged between Gettysburgh and York. Harrisburg has fallen to Rodes division and Early is reported at York with additional noise coming from Chambersburg. I believe that with the bulk of the army deployed as we have it, that we can develop a position in the interior of the enemy at a number of locations within PA or Northern Maryland. This day you will push on your Corps to Taneytown with all due speed.
4. Have Butterfield explain the circles!

Regards, Meade

# Morning Field Report

Turn 4, Early July 1863

General Slocum,

Our divisions have linked up with Meade and the army artillery train just outside Taneytown. The march is slow going with a wave of terrible summer heat. There is no sign of the enemy, but our advance pickets have established the last known locations of Hancock's II Corps and Howard's XI, both fanned out ahead of our advance. We appear to be in an ideal, central position. Now if we could only find Bobby Lee....

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Slocum

Sent: Turn 4 (GM roll = n/a )

From: Meade's Army HQ

General, Thank your for the information from Sykes. Mosthelpful. I wish you to take your Corps to Hanover, placing a Division at Hanover and one at Littlestown. This will provide support for the actions currently underway at Gettysburg and provide a blocking position for Early's division returning from York. Push your pickets north of Hanover to the Pigeon Hills and Abbottstown, as well as picketing the road from Reistertown to Hanover when you are in position at Hanover. I will diverge at Littlestown to take the Artillery Reserve to Gettysburg.

Heth's division is east of Gettysburg while the remainder of Lee's army appears to be coming through the Cashtown pass. Reynolds and Buford drove Heth from Gettysburg yesterday. Hancock is to be at Gettysburg, assuming he has been in communication with Reynolds or Pleasonton. The remainder of Ewell's Corps is likely to move down through York Springs and Bermudian, although I do not expect in force until York has been taken.

## Morning Field Report

Turn 5, Mid July 1863

General Slocum,

It is with great regret that our corps was unable to assist at Gettysburg, but the divisions are camped as ordered, within easy marching distance of the field. It seems that Lee's army remains nearby, perhaps preparing for another day of hot work. Shall we march to the sound of the guns, or remain in reserve?

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

## Morning Field Report

Turn 6, Mid July 1863

General Slocum,

General Geary marched to the sound of the guns at Emmitsburg but found himself unengaged. He remains camped near the battlefield, awaiting direction from Meade's headquarters. General Williams is still camped at Hanover, guarding the critical supply depot as directed.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

## Morning Field Report

Turn 7, Late July 1863

General Slocum,

General Geary is camped near Taneytown, remaining in reserve formation at the battlefield. Williams and his division remain guarding the depot at Hanover, ever watchful for the menace of JEB Stuart and his rebel cavalry. As yet, there is no sign of the enemy in the vicinity of Hanover.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

## Morning Field Report

Turn 8, Late July 1863

General Slocum,

The Army of the Potomac has pulled back behind a strong position at Pipe Creek after a minor repulse at the Battle of Fairfield. The enemy does not appear to have lingered on the blood-soaked field. It is unclear where Lee's army will go next, though there are credible reports from civilians in Chambersburg and Greencastle of heavy columns of rebel troops in the immediate vicinity. Buford's cavalry guards our western flank and reports that Heth's Division remains close at hand, likely serving as a Confederate rear-guard.

Our men are currently camped at Middleburg in strong positions awaiting your orders.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

# Morning Field Report

Turn 9, Late July 1863

General Slocum,

We were following orders. Our men did as General Meade commanded, marching down the road to attack the enemy at Mechanicstown. But AP Hill's rebels were waiting for us and mauled General Williams' division badly before the corps was forced to pull back. Losses were heavy and one of our brigades is no longer combat effective. Where was Hancock? His corps did not offer the support we urgently needed. Meade must be informed of the truth behind this engagement!

General Buford screens our flank and reports no sign of the enemy, who surely withdrew after the battle. Perhaps the road through the mountains is now open? Where have the rebels gone?

Your Obedient Servant,

*Gen. Daniel Butterfield*

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac